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LICHFIELD RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

1.	Mr. Muston Dr. Didsbury	C.407 C.407
2.	Mr. Morley Parry	A.419 1/2
3.	Mr. Perry	A.405
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ANNUAL REPORTS

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

AND OF THE

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

1967

1900-1901

1902-1903

1904

1905-1906

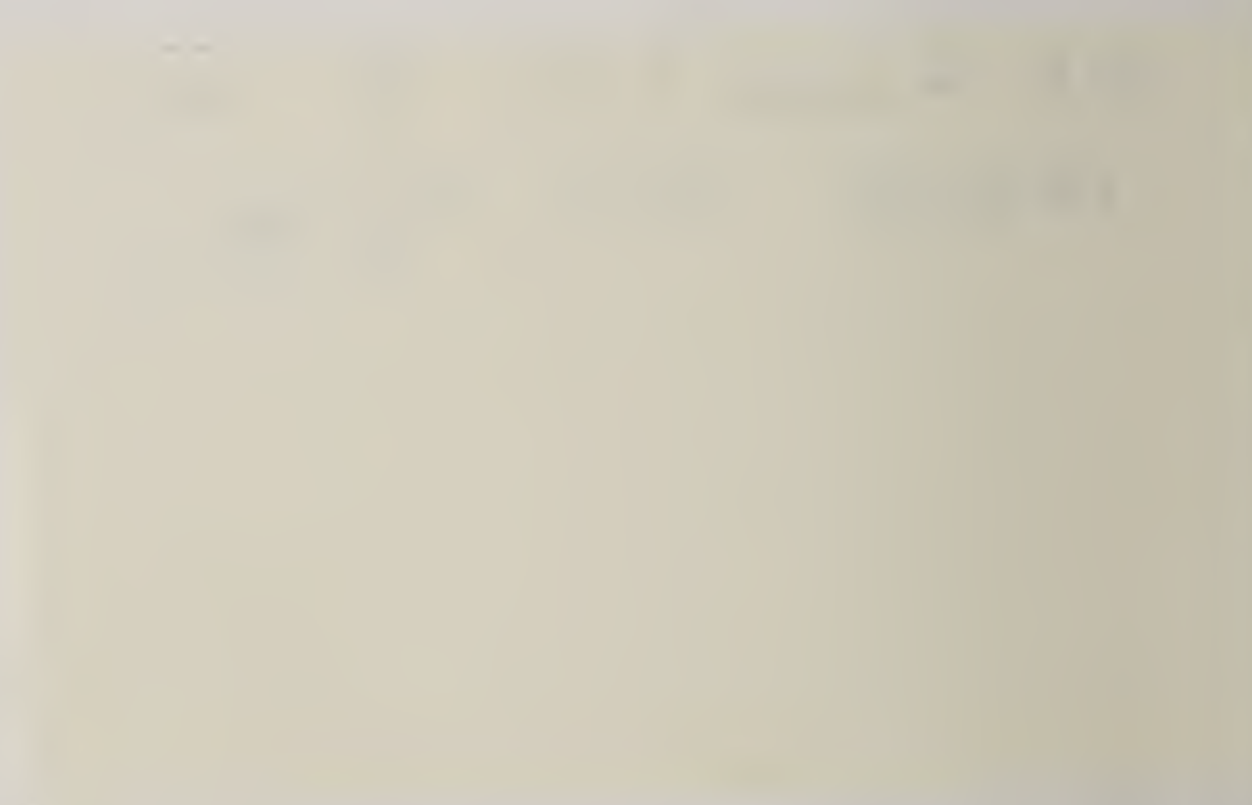
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Medical Officer of Health

C. E. JAMISON, B.A., M.B., D.P.H.

Chief Public Health Inspector

GEORGE LEEDER, M.A.P.H.I.

Deputy Chief Public Health Inspector

J. B. DUCKWORTH, A.R.S.H. (Resigned 30:4:67)

C. MATHESON (Appointed 25:4:67)

Public Health Inspectors

D. G. HOBDAY, M.A.P.H.I.
T. W. HOWELLS

Pupil Public Health Inspector

P. RAYBOULD

Office Staff

MRS. J. BYWATER
MISS G. BLUNDELL

Sanitary Foreman/Rodent Officer

F. FEARN

LICHFIELD RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

1967

To the Chairman and Members,
Lichfield Rural District Council.


I have pleasure in presenting my report on the health of the district, and on the work of the Health Department, during 1967.

As the matters dealt with are difficult to summarise in any adequate or informative way, I make no attempt to do so in this introduction, but would refer the reader to the comments contained in the various sections of the report.

I would again take this opportunity of thanking Members and other Officers of the Council for their continued co-operation, and acknowledge the contributions made by various Officers of the Council and others to the material contained in this report.

C. E. JAMISON,
Medical Officer of Health.

Rural Council House,
5th August, 1968.



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GENERAL STATISTICS

The following figures show the area, in acres, the population, as estimated by the Registrar General, the number of occupied houses, the total rateable value of rateable properties of all types and the product of a penny rate:-

Area (in acres)	83,527
Population	49,070
Numbers of Inhabited Homes	15,995
Total Rateable Value of Properties	£1,854,867
Product of a Penny Rate	£7,509

The figures reflect the continued growth of the district in relation to house construction, population and, of course, rate product. As regards the figure for inhabited houses, it may be remembered that the figure quoted does not include residential caravans, although there are known to be over 200 families living, more or less permanently, in caravans on sites in the district.

VITAL STATISTICS

Statistics relating to births, stillbirths and deaths are set out below in the same form as in other recent years:-

<u>Live Births</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate	650	612	1,262
Illegitimate	22	18	40
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	672	630	1,302

Live Birth Rate for 1,000 Population = 26.5

<u>Stillbirths</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate	9	6	15
Illegitimate	1	-	1
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	10	6	16

Stillbirth Rate for 1,000 Total Births = 12.1

<u>Deaths in Infants Under One Week</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate	12	6	18
Illegitimate	1	1	2
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	13	7	20

Perinatal Mortality per 1,000 Total Births = 27.3

<u>Deaths in Infants Under Four Weeks</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate	14	8	22
Illegitimate	1	1	2
	<u>15</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>24</u>

Neonatal Death Rate per 1,000 Live Births = 18.4

<u>Deaths in Infants Under One Year</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate	18	11	29
Illegitimate	1	1	2
	<u>19</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>31</u>

Infant Death Rate per 1,000 Live Births = 23.8

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
<u>Deaths (All Ages)</u>	729	664	1,393

It can be noted that 41 live births and stillbirths out of a total of 1,318, were illegitimate, giving a proportion of one in 32. This figure compares with corresponding figures of one in 34 in 1966, one in 27 in 1965, one in 28 in 1964, one in 25 in 1963, one in 17 in 1962, one in 33 in 1961, one in 26 in 1960, one in 30 in 1959 and 1958 and one in 22 in 1957. It will be seen that, although the figure is slightly less satisfactory than that of the previous year, it compares favourably with the figures for all but one other year, 1961, in the past decade.

It is again true to say that, in view of the very small number of stillbirths and infant deaths in such a small population, no significant comparison can be attempted, in statistical terms, between these occurrences in legitimate and illegitimate infants.

The following table shows how the figures for 1967 compare with those for immediately preceding years:-

Year	Estimated Population	Live Birth Rate	Stillbirth Rate	Neonatal Death Rate	Infant Death Rate	Death Rate (All Ages)
1955	42,580	12.7	27.1	9.3	18.6	10.9
1956	41,250	14.3	23.2	22.0	27.1	10.9
1957	40,100	15.7	14.0	26.8	31.5	10.5
1958	38,850	15.4	22.8	13.4	23.4	10.3
1959	39,500	15.7	26.7	12.9	16.1	11.4
1960	40,660	16.2	23.7	10.6	19.7	11.3
1961	40,040	17.2	18.2	18.8	26.0	12.3
1962	40,710	17.9	14.9	24.7	31.6	11.5
1963	41,950	18.6	12.7	10.3	12.8	10.8
1964	42,880	20.6	18.9	11.3	13.6	10.3
1965	44,730	24.4	18.9	9.2	11.0	11.6
1966	46,900	25.5	12.4	11.7	13.4	12.0
1967	49,070	26.5	12.1	18.4	23.8	10.8

Of these figures, the live birth and stillbirth rates are the same as those for the preceding year. The neonatal and infant death rates were, for this year, somewhat higher than the very excellent figures of other recent years. The death rate, all ages, was satisfactorily below the figures for the preceding two years and also below the average for the previous decade. The birth rate and death rate, relating to relatively large numbers of events, are statistically significant, but stillbirth, neonatal and infant death rates, relating to a much smaller number of events, fluctuate considerably from year to year, and are therefore of less significance, so far as any one year is concerned.

After the usual adjustment of the birth and death rates, in accordance with the comparability factors provided by the Registrar General, to take account of the known differences in age and sex distribution, as between Lichfield Rural District and England and Wales as a whole, the total and national figures compare as follows:-

Place	Live Birth Rate	Stillbirth Rate	Neonatal Death Rate	Perinatal Death Rate	Infant Death Rate	Death Rate (All Ages)
LICHFIELD RURAL DISTRICT	25.4	12.1	18.4	27.3	23.8	10.7
England and Wales	17.2	14.8	12.5	25.4	18.3	11.2

Taking the figures relating to stillbirths and deaths as a whole, it can be noted that the stillbirth rate and death rate for all ages compare favourably with those for England and Wales, while the three death rates relating to infant mortality compare, on this occasion, less favourably. This is in some contrast with the figures for 1966, when all the local figures compared favourably with the national ones. Any conclusions must be qualified by the remarks above, relating to the relatively large fluctuations which always occur when the figures on which the rates are based are very small.

The following table shows the causes of death during 1967 of persons ordinarily resident in the district, regardless of where the deaths actually occurred:-

CAUSE OF DEATH	Total 1962	Total 1963	Total 1964	Total 1965	Total 1966	1967		
						Male	Female	Total
Tuberculosis, Respiratory	1	2	3	1	1	-	-	-
Tuberculosis, Other	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Syphilitic Disease	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-
Meningococcal Infections	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Measles	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-
Other Infective and Parasitic Diseases	-	-	2	-	1	-	-	-
Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach	9	9	14	6	13	2	2	4
Malignant Neoplasm, Lung, Bronchus	12	15	18	15	15	13	2	15
Malignant Neoplasm, Breast	5	10	8	10	13	1	7	8
Malignant Neoplasm, Uterus	1	3	2	3	3	-	2	2
Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms	34	33	22	37	45	17	17	34
Leukaemia, Aleukaemia	1	1	2	1	5	1	2	3
Diabetes	3	3	1	4	7	-	3	3
Vascular Lesions of the Nervous System	53	64	74	78	70	26	32	58
Coronary Disease, Angina	79	69	89	114	95	75	91	166
Hypertension with Heart Disease	9	11	5	8	14	2	4	6
Other Heart Disease	54	47	47	44	48	10	14	24
Other Circulatory Disease	16	17	10	12	23	8	16	24

CAUSE OF DEATH	Total 1962	Total 1963	Total 1964	Total 1965	Total 1966	1967		
						Male	Female	Total
Influenza	9	1	3	1	6	-	-	-
Pneumonia	50	48	35	67	79	40	23	63
Bronchitis	31	26	18	32	24	15	6	21
Other Diseases of the Respiratory System	6	8	7	10	10	3	3	6
Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum	4	3	6	5	4	3	-	3
Nephritis and Nephrosis	2	2	2	-	3	-	2	2
Gastritis, Enteritis and Disrrhoea	4	2	1	2	1	-	-	-
Hyperplasia of Prostate	3	1	4	-	1	4	-	4
Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Congenital Malformations	4	1	4	5	5	5	6	11
Other Defined and Ill-Defined Diseases	53	55	36	27	51	24	30	54
Motor Vehicle Accidents	8	8	14	18	13	8	2	10
All Other Accidents	10	8	6	11	11	3	3	6
Suicide	3	3	6	4	1	2	-	2
Homicide and Operations of War	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-
TOTALS	466	452	441	517	564	262	267	529

As recorded earlier in this report, 20 of the 31 infant deaths occurred before the end of the first one week of life, while four deaths were at ages between one week and four weeks, the remaining seven deaths being between the ages of four weeks and one year. Of the deaths occurring in the first week after birth, the major causes of death were prematurity, in 13 infants, and congenital malformations, in five infants. In the age-group from one week to four weeks, death was attributed to congenital malformations in three infants and to pneumonia in the fourth infant. Only in the group of infants between four weeks and one year was infection a major cause of death, this being due to pneumonia in four instances and to meningitis in another. Taking infant deaths as a whole, it is again clear that premature birth and congenital malformations are now the principal hazards to life in infancy, emphasising the importance of the research now being carried out in this field.

Of the three deaths occurring in children of between one year and five years of age, one death was due to a type of cancer, one to an abnormality of the blood and the third to meningitis secondary to influenzal infection. The three deaths in this group compare with seven in the previous year.

Causes of death in the four children who died at ages between five years and fifteen years included cancer, congenital malformation, acute rheumatic infection and accidental death by electrocution, showing the varied risks to which children in this age-group are subject.

As in other recent years, a very large proportion of the total number of deaths in the district occurred at ages over 65 years, the actual figures for 1967 being 365 out of a total of 529 deaths. With the exception of the age-group from 45 years to 55 years, deaths in males exceeded those in females up to 75 years, after which age deaths in females were double those in males, thus continuing the pattern that has become very familiar in recent years, due to greater longevity of the female of the species.

Study of the figures of deaths for the various cancers shows a very welcome drop in the total number, from 92 in 1966 to 66 in 1967, the fall in the total being mainly accounted for by a dramatic fall in deaths due to cancer of the stomach, from 13 to 4, in cancer of the breast, from 13 to 8, in cancer of the uterus, or womb, from 3 to 2, and in other cancers, apart from those mentioned and those affecting the lung, bronchus and blood, from 45 to 34. Deaths from cancer of lung and bronchus, as will be seen, remained unchanged at 15, affecting, on this occasion, 13 males and 2 females. It will be noted how far these deaths outnumber those from cancer of the uterus, in spite of the emphasis now placed on efforts to reduce the latter by allocating large resources of manpower and money to examination of cervical smears. In view of the comments in previous reports on the relationship between long-continued cigarette smoking and cancer of the lung and bronchus, no further reference is made to that point here. As regards the drop in cancer deaths as a whole, it is much too soon to draw any conclusion either as to cause or likelihood of continuance.

The main feature of the deaths relating to cardiovascular diseases, as a whole, is the large increase in those attributed to coronary disease, of which one hears so much in these days. It would appear that, so far as this district is concerned, a marked increase is, in fact, now occurring. Although not linked with cigarette smoking to anything like the same degree as lung cancer or chronic bronchitis, it is notable that the connection was commented upon in the well-known report published by the Royal College of Physicians in 1962. It is not, of course, linked to the male sex in anything like the same degree as the two other diseases mentioned.

Deaths from the various types of respiratory disease were reduced, as compared with the previous year, at 90, as compared with 119, influenza being missing altogether as a cause of death, while deaths from pneumonia were well down and those for bronchitis slightly down. As in other recent years, most of these deaths occurred at ages in excess of 65 years and, in the case of pneumonia, mostly in persons of over 75 years.

Coming to accidental deaths involving motor vehicles, it is noteworthy that, of 10 deaths, almost all occurred to drivers of, or passengers in, motor vehicles, as distinct from pedestrians, and that five of the deaths occurred in persons of between 21 years and 18 years of age. It is again, as often before, borne in upon anyone studying the statistics that drivers in this age-group expose themselves and their passengers to very special risk of serious accident, as compared with those who have outlived the desire to travel at very high speeds in motor cars.

Deaths due to accidents other than ones involving motor vehicles, do not, on this occasion, fall into any particular pattern justifying comment

It is interesting to note that, following the single suicide recorded in my report for 1966, only two deaths were attributed to this cause last year, a figure well below the average for the past decade.

It is again satisfactory to be able to mention, on the negative side, that no death was attributed to pregnancy, abortion or childbirth during the period under review.

NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASES

The following table shows the number of cases of infectious diseases, other than tuberculosis, notified during the year, and also the number of cases of each disease notified during the preceding ten years:-

DISEASE	1957	1958	1959	1960	1961	1962	1963	1964	1965	1966	1967
Scarlet Fever	27	35	43	39	15	4	6	8	21	25	15
Whooping Cough	69	22	27	50	13	11	6	27	6	22	14
Measles	655	258	196	61	768	56	674	199	342	311	371
Poliomyelitis	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
Meningococcal Infection	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
Erysipelas	5	3	1	1	-	3	-	-	2	-	1
Dysentery	6	8	23	-	9	21	5	3	6	16	16
Pneumonia	17	33	69	34	59	26	23	9	29	32	10
Food Poisoning	10	6	3	61	6	18	4	-	2	1	2
Paratyphoid Fever	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Puerperal Pyrexia	-	-	1	-	-	3	3	1	1	1	-
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1	-	2	1	-	-	2	2	-	-	-

The number of cases of scarlet fever was again satisfactorily low, and gave rise to no epidemiological problems, confirming that vaccination against this disease continues to be unnecessary.

The same satisfactory position applies to whooping cough, but, in this instance, there is good reason to believe that it is due to the vaccinations now carried out in infancy and early childhood.

Measles was again the most prevalent notifiable infectious disease, in spite of the quite high figures for each of the previous two years. It is difficult to predict how this factor will affect the usual biennial epidemic, expected in the Autumn of this year, against which a relatively small vaccination campaign is now being waged in children of between four years and seven years. Taking the circumstances as a whole, I do not feel that the effect will, on this occasion, be very large, as the campaign is obviously starting much too late in the season, but I am optimistic that it will lead to a very different, and more satisfactory, picture in future years, when younger children will have been vaccinated in large numbers.

The continued absence of cases of poliomyelitis, attributable to vaccination, and meningococcal infection, due to modern methods of treatment, is very satisfactory, and should, with luck, continue in future years.

The same may be said of diphtheria, which, fortunately, does not now appear in the table, and of poliomyelitis, if unfamiliarity with the disease does not lead to complacency and neglect to protect the young child by immunisation.

I do not attach significance to the small number of cases of pneumonia actually notified, and make no further comment upon these.

The number of cases of dysentery notified was exactly the same as that in the previous year, but above the average for other recent years. The number of cases notified in 1967 was largely due to a small outbreak, affecting a limited number of families, occurring in Kings Bromley, in the middle of the year. The remaining cases were sporadic ones, occurring in a number of different parishes. Routine measures were taken to limit the spread of infection, and appeared to be successful in achieving that end.

The notified cases of food poisoning were also sporadic in type, showing no relationship to one another or to any known outbreak. The usual precautions were taken to prevent the spread of infection, and no further cases were reported.

The one case of paratyphoid infection occurred as part of a small outbreak in a neighbouring district, due to infected food consumed at a meal in a restaurant. The patient recovered very quickly, and did not become a carrier of infection.

Only two cases of tuberculosis were notified during 1967, one being of the pulmonary type, in a man of 54 years and the other, of non-pulmonary type, in a woman of 35 years. The usual measures of investigation of contacts and surveillance of patients were undertaken, in one instance in conjunction with a neighbouring local authority. No death occurring during the year was attributed to tuberculosis.

The following table shows how the numbers of new cases of tuberculosis compared with those in previous years, figures for deaths in previous years also being given, although no deaths occurred in 1967:-

YEAR	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
1952	14	10	6	4	1	2	-	2
1953	15	15	2	1	3	3	-	-
1954	17	20	5	2	8	1	-	1
1955	10	8	2	3	-	-	-	-
1956	9	9	2	1	-	-	-	-
1957	14	10	1	1	1	-	-	1
1958	11	3	2	2	2	-	-	-
1959	8	8	-	-	4	1	-	-
1960	5	5	-	1	3	1	-	-
1961	5	1	1	-	1	-	-	-
1962	5	2	-	1	-	1	-	-
1963	5	3	-	1	1	1	1	-
1964	4	2	-	-	2	1	-	-
1965	2	1	-	1	1	-	-	-
1966	3	1	1	-	1	-	-	-
1967	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-

It will be seen that the figures for new cases are the best in the period covered by the table, and it may be added that they are the most satisfactory in the entire period for which figures are available. The absence of deaths is also a very satisfactory feature of the figures. Taken as a whole, the statistics show very clearly the vast improvement achieved by modern methods of investigation, treatment and surveillance.

ANTHRAX

Only one notice was received during the year in respect of anthrax infection in animals, this being one of suspected infection in a dead cow. It was later proved that the animal in question had not died from anthrax.

Anthrax infection in man is now notifiable, but no notification was received during the year.

VENEREAL DISEASES

Particulars of facilities available continue as outlined in previous reports. These appear to work satisfactorily, as the patients concerned can well travel to hospitals in neighbouring boroughs for this service, and possibly prefer to do so.

LABORATORY FACILITIES

The arrangements of previous years continued unchanged, and work very well indeed, information regarding results of tests being available, where necessary, seven days a week, in respect of matters of importance from a public health aspect.

HOSPITAL ACCOMMODATION

Facilities for the limited number of patients suffering from infectious diseases, including tuberculosis, who needed admission to hospital, continued to be quite adequate, and the somewhat lengthy journeys involved did not appear to cause undue hardship to either patients or relatives.

Maternity hospital facilities improved enormously during the year, with the opening of Good Hope Hospital, Sutton Coldfield, which can cope with all obstetric emergencies and can provide beds for all patients with genuine need for such facilities on medical or social grounds.

The position regarding hospital accommodation for the elderly chronic sick continued to be unsatisfactory during the year, in marked contrast to the favourable position now obtaining in relation to the types of patients mentioned above. The need for additional beds is obvious, and is accepted by the hospital authority. Until additional beds become available at Good Hope Hospital, such assistance as is possible is given by categorisation of priority, in relation to home conditions, of patients on waiting list and by the district nursing and home help services. The assistance given by the home help service is, of course, frequently a continuation of that given for years before the need for hospital admission arises.

PERSONAL HEALTH SERVICES

Arrangements relating to administration of domiciliary nursing, clinic, immunisation and home help services continued more or less unchanged during the year, in spite of proposals that they should, in future, be administered from the County Health Department in Stafford, it being decided that, in view of the imminent report of the Royal Commission on Local Government, a decision on this matter should be postponed for at least a short period.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACTS, 1948 and 1951

No statutory action was required during the year to effect compulsory removal of any person to either hostel or hospital.

In view of the fairly full comments in my report for 1966, no further reference need, I feel, be made, on this occasion, to the various aspects of this matter.

WELFARE OF OLD PEOPLE

The Council continued, during the year, to give financial assistance to Old People's Welfare Committees and other voluntary organisations making themselves responsible for the provision of either meals or recreation for old people. It is clear that this type of activity has been stimulated by the interest shown by the Council in this useful work, and by the financial assistance which it has made available to organisations prepared to undertake work in this field and to raise funds, for the purpose, in their own parishes.

FOOD

The usual information regarding inspection of restaurants, public houses, canteens and shops selling food will be found, in some detail, in Mr. Leeder's section of this report, together with details of complaints received from members of the public and food condemned as being unfit for human consumption. I feel that regular inspection of premises and prompt and thorough investigation of complaints constitute a very important safeguard for the public which is now, at least as far as complaints are concerned, becoming more aware of the facilities available for investigation.

The results of the examination of samples of milk for cleanliness, efficiency of pasteurisation and sterilization and the presence of tubercle organisms were as follows:-

GRADE OF MILK	RESULTS							
	Meth. Blue (Cleanliness)		Phosphatase (Pasteurisation)		Turbidity (Sterilization)		Biological (Tuberculosis)	
	Sat	Unsat	Sat	Unsat	Sat	Unsat	Neg	Pos
Untreated Farm Bottled	36	4	-	-	-	-	7	-
Pasteurised	200	8	217	-	-	-	-	-
Pasteurised Homogenised	30	-	32	-	-	-	-	-
Sterilized	-	-	-	-	8	-	-	-
TOTALS	266	12	249	-	8	-	7	-

The results again show that the heat-treatment processes are fully efficient, that the campaign for elimination of tuberculous infection from cattle has been successful, but that measures taken by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food to ensure the cleanliness of milk, as supplied to the dairy, have still not quite achieved that object in all cases.

WATER

Mr. Taylor, Engineer-in-Chief to South Staffordshire Waterworks Company has again provided information regarding the sources of supply, composition of the water used in different areas, measures taken to ensure purity and the results of chemical and bacteriological investigation of samples taken at various points in the district.

He confirmed that all tap samples taken were free from coliform bacilli, which are regarded as an indicator of the safety or otherwise of the water in question for human consumption.

Fortunately, the water supplied is not of a type which dissolves lead, in any significant degree, and the tap samples were free from any appreciable quantities of lead.

No progress was made during the year in relation to fluoridation of water supplies, and the water supplied continues to be deficient in this important constituent. Further pressure is now being exerted by the Minister of Health on County Councils to take action to secure fluoridation, but this appears unlikely to be successful, owing to opposition by a small but vociferous minority still opposed to it, until Parliament gives the Minister power to compel water undertakers to rectify the deficiency before releasing the water for human consumption.

HOUSING

The Housing Manager has provided me with the following information regarding the waiting list for council houses and rehousing of applicants during the year:-

Waiting List at 1st January, 1967	...	...	...	884
Rehoused in New Dwellings during 1967	...	...		125
Rehoused in Relet Dwellings during 1967	...	...		143
Waiting List at 31st December, 1967	...	...		726

Out of the total of 268 families rehoused during the year, 35 families were rehoused from houses unfit for human habitation and 12 families from caravans. The figure of 35 re-housings from unfit houses in 1967 compares with figures of 17 in 1966, 56 in 1965, 25 in 1964, 14 in 1963 and 61 in 1962. It will be seen how considerably the figures vary from year to year, mainly due, on the one hand, to the number of new dwellings completed during the year and, on the other, in recent years, to the necessity to allocate large numbers of rehousings for the residents in prefabricated houses which had reached the end of their useful life. Rehousing of occupants of unfit houses in Fazeley and Elford, mentioned in my last report, were again delayed by the lack of available houses in the parish in question. It now appears that those in Fazeley will be rehoused before the end of the present year, but occupants of the Elford houses appear likely to have to wait until next year.

The reduction in the waiting list for houses effected during 1967 is obviously a favourable factor in relation to future clearance of these unfit houses still to be dealt with, in that it will lessen, in some degree, the competition of families needing houses because of overcrowding with those who need rehousing from unfit houses.

The following table shows the statutory action taken by the Council during 1967 in relation to houses deemed to be unfit for human habitation:-

PROPERTY	STATUTORY ACTION
<p>1, 2 and 3, Hill Top Cottages, Wiggington.</p> <p>House at Hunger Hill, Hamstall Ridware.</p> <p>House and Caravan, Hood Lane, Armitage.</p> <p>105, 107, 109, Springhill, Chasetown.</p> <p>14 and 16, Birmingham Road, Shenstone.</p> <p>Bungalow, Streethay.</p> <p>Princes Villa, Freeford.</p> <p>3, 5, 7 and 9, Hill Street, Chase Terrace.</p> <p>119, High Street, Chasetown.</p> <p>Two Houses, Coppy Nook Lane, Hammerwich.</p> <p>Caravan, rear of 76, Rugeley Road, Chase Terrace.</p>	<p>Undertakings accepted, 27th January, 1967</p> <p>Demolition Order, 23rd March, 1967</p> <p>Demolition Orders, 23rd March, 1967</p> <p>Undertakings Accepted, 28th April, 1967</p> <p>Demolition Orders, 28th April, 1967</p> <p>Demolition Order, 26th May, 1967</p> <p>Undertaking Accepted, 26th May, 1967</p> <p>Undertakings Accepted, 28th July, 1967</p> <p>Undertaking Accepted, 28th July, 1967</p> <p>Undertaking Accepted, 28th July, 1967</p> <p>Demolition Order, 27th October, 1967</p>

The total of 20 houses in 1967 compared with figures of 22 in 1966, 28 in 1965, 28 in 1964, 55 in 1963, 37 in 1962, 25 in 1961, 70 in 1960, 18 in 1959, 8 in 1958, 37 in 1957, 22 in 1956 and 19 in 1955. The reason for the delay in completing the programme has, of course, been the inadvisability of going ahead with further action in Burntwood and Fazeley Parishes until such time as the occupants of houses already dealt with by Demolition and Clearance Orders or by Statutory Undertakings could be rehoused, and the houses cleared. It is already obvious that this factor will again impose a limit on the amount of administrative action which can be initiated in those parishes in the current year. It is hoped, however, that preliminary work now being undertaken will enable the rate of clearance of unfit houses to be stepped up considerably during the next few years, with a view to completing the programme within the next five years or so.

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS

The necessary inspections were carried out by the Public Health Inspectors, the following being dealt with during the year:-

PREMISES	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	8	-	-	-
Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	110	22	12	-
Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (Excluding outworkers' premises)	20	1	-	-
TOTAL	138	23	12	-

The table set out below shows the defects found, and action taken as a result of the inspection carried out:-

	Number of Cases in which Defects were Found				Number of Cases in which Prosecutions were Instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred		
			To H.M. Inspector	By J.M. Inspector	
Want of Cleanliness	-		-		-
Overcrowding	-		-		-
Unreasonable temperatures	-		-		-
Inadequate ventilation	-		-		-
Ineffective drainage of floors	-		-		-
Sanitary Conveniences					
(a) Insufficient	2	2	-	1	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective	12	10	-	8	-
(c) Not separate for sexes	2	2	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Out- work)	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	16	14	-	9	-

The following table sets out particulars regarding outworkers in the district who carried out work in their own homes during the year:-

Nature of work	Section 110			Section 111		
	No. of Outworkers in August list required by Section 110(1)(c)	No. of cases of default in sending lists to the Council	No. of Prosecutions for failure to supply lists	No. of instances of work in un-wholesome premises	Notices served	Pro-secutions
Making of Wearing Apparel etc.	2	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	2	-	-	-	-	-

TRANSPORTATION OF DANGEROUS SUBSTANCES

An incident occurred during the year in which a traffic accident in the district led to the dislodgement of a very large load of a radioactive substance from one of the vehicles involved. Although the substance was only radioactive in a relatively small degree, account had to be taken of the very large amount of it carried by the vehicle in question, and also of the fact that a small proportion of the large number of individual packages in which the substance was contained burst open on impact. Traffic had to be diverted from this road for a number of hours, until the experts nominated by the Minister of Transport to deal with such incidents were able to ascertain the amount of radioactivity involved, and to advise on the various measures to be taken to minimise any possible danger.

As a result of the incident, certain matters arising from it were taken up with the Minister of Transport, with a view to ensuring that any lessons that could be learned from the occurrence should be fully borne in mind when new regulations concerning the transport of radioactive materials, then in course of preparation, were finally produced. So far, however, no indication has been received as to when the new regulations will be issued.

SEWERS AND SEWAGE TREATMENT

(Prepared by Mr. K. Burkinshaw, C.Eng., A.M.I.Mun.E., A.M.Inst.H.E.
Engineer and Surveyor)

At the majority of the sewage treatment works throughout the Rural District the final effluent has been of a reasonable standard, and on the whole complies with the standard laid down by the Royal Commission. The Council's programme for modernising the existing works is now nearing completion and the capital expenditure to date is in the region of one million pounds. However, several more contracts are still to be let to provide sewerage and sewage disposal facilities in villages where these amenities do not exist.

ALREWAS - The overload on these works continues to increase and, to maintain a reasonable standard of effluent from these works, the mechanical plant has had to be overhauled and several parts renewed. A pumping station in Dark Lane which pumps all the sewage to the Works has had its pumping capacity increased by the provision of a larger pump and motor. In the village of Fradley the sewerage system is unsatisfactory, the proposals to deal with this are being included in a proposed scheme for enlarging the treatment works at Alrewas, and the pumping of the sewage from the village of Fradley to the new works.

ARMITAGE AND LONGDON - The sewage treatment works situated at Armitage deals with the drainage from these parishes, the effluent from which is reasonable, having regard to the large amount of development now draining to these works. A new extension has now been completed, and the final effluent from these works has improved considerably.

BRINDLEY HEATH - These works continue to produce a satisfactory final effluent, complying with the Trent River Authority's standards. Experimental work is at present in progress in the provision of a new type of clarifier which, if successful, will replace the original clarifiers.

BURNWOOD - First stage of the modernisation of this works has been completed. At the latter end of 1967 two bacteria beds, two humus tanks and the drying beds were brought into operation. The second stage of this scheme comprising the new inlet works, should be completed towards the end of 1968. The standard of final effluent has improved considerably, and should shortly conform to the standards laid down by the Trent River Authority. The new pumping station at Triangle is complete but not yet operational. This station will pump the sewage which at present drains to the Chasetown Sewage Works to the proposed new works at Peters Lane.

CLIFTON CAMPVILLE - This works continues to produce satisfactory final effluent within the Trent River Authorities Standards.

COLTON - The new sewage treatment works was brought into operation during May, 1967. Due to the small flow at present being received at these works, only part of the units constructed are in service. The final effluent from this works has improved considerably, and should shortly conform to the standards laid down by the Trent River Authority.

CURBOROUGH AND ELMHURST - During the past year bacteria beds have been increased in depth and a humus tank constructed and a larger pumping unit installed, with the result that these works now produce a satisfactory effluent complying with the standards laid down by the Trent River Authority.

DRAYTON BASSETT - Excellent results are still being maintained from this new sewage treatment works, the effluent being to a very high standard.

EDINGALE - The proposals for the sewerage of this village and the construction of a sewage treatment works are now well advanced. It is anticipated that work should commence on this contract during the latter part of 1968.

ELFORD - The new sewage treatment works is nearing completion, and it is anticipated these will be brought into operation in 1968.

FAREWELL AND CHORLEY - The plant dealing with the council houses is operating satisfactorily, although the final effluent is only of average quality. Eventually, new sewers will be laid as part of the Burntwood Scheme and the existing plant will be disconnected.

FAZELEY - The sewage from this area is dealt with at the Tamworth Sewage Treatment Works, sewers from this area discharging into the main trunk sewer in Watling Street, and passing under the canal into the Tamworth Borough. This trunk sewer is surcharged during the day period, and there are proposals for constructing a relief sewer for this area. The two pumping stations serving this parish both work satisfactorily.

FRADLEY - The plant dealing with the new Council Houses was taken over at the beginning of 1968 and is operating satisfactorily and is producing a final effluent conforming to the standards of the Trent River Authority. The sewage system in general for the village is unsatisfactory, and it is proposed to deal with this within the scheme for Alrewas.

GENTLESHAW - There is no change to report in sewerage conditions existing in this parish.

HAMSTALL RIDWARE - Proposals for the sewerage of this village and the construction of a sewage treatment works have now been approved by the Minister, and documents are now being prepared for tenders for the construction work in respect of this scheme.

HARLSTON - The treatment works is seriously overloaded, and the effluent from these works is unsatisfactory. A scheme has been prepared for these works to be replaced by a pumping station, which will pump the sewage from this area to the new sewage treatment works to be constructed in the parish of Edingale. Work should commence on this scheme in the latter part of 1968.

HOPWAS - During the year considerable extensions were carried out at these works. These included rebuilding one bacteria bed, the laying out of two grass plots and the construction of a pump house. As a result of these modifications, these treatment works now produce a very high standard of final effluent, conforming to the standards laid down by the Trent River Authority.

HINTS - The new sewage treatment works is nearing completion, and it is anticipated that these works will be brought into operation during 1968.

KINGS BROMLEY - The effluent from the existing sewage tank is unsatisfactory, and a scheme has been prepared for the sewerage of this village together with two new pumping stations. A decision on the proposed siting of the new treatment works has still to be made.

MAVESYN RIDWARE - Due to the amount of development that has taken place recently in this village, the sewage works is now overloaded, with the result that it is not possible to produce a satisfactory effluent at all times. Several improvements have been made during the year, in that upward-flow clarifiers have been installed and reduction gears fitted to the distributors. These modifications have made some improvement to the final effluent, but it is anticipated that further extensions will be necessary to the works to maintain a satisfactory effluent.

SHENSTONE - This works continues to produce a very high standard of effluent.

STONNALL - The new works was brought into operation in 1967, and the works is producing a satisfactory effluent, conforming to the Trent River Authority standards.

LITTLE ASTON - Excellent results are still being maintained from this works, the effluent being of very high standard.

STREETHAY - Satisfactory effluent conforming to the Trent River Authority standards is produced by this works.

SWINFEN AND PACKINGTON - The disposal works at Botany Bay to deal with the housing estate is working satisfactorily, and is producing a reasonable standard of effluent.

WALL - The quantity of farm effluent being received at this works has been reduced, and consequently the condition of the works has improved. The final effluent still falls below the standard required, and it is proposed to construct a new pumping station to pump the sewage from Wall to the Burntwood Sewage Works.

WHITTINGTON - New sewage treatment works is nearing completion, and should be completed by the end of 1968. Several of the new units have been brought into operation, with the result that the final effluent now being discharged conforms to the Trent River Authority standards.

WIGGINTON - Conditions in the portion of Wigginton Parish which is sewerage are quite good, the sewage being dealt with at the Tamworth Sewage Treatment Works.

WEEFORD - There is no change to report in the sewerage conditions existing in this parish.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

1967

To the Chairman and Members,
Lichfield Rural District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies & Gentlemen,

I have the pleasure to report on the work of the Public Health Inspectors for the year 1967.

A change of staff took place during the year with the resignation in April of Mr. J.B. Duckworth, Deputy Chief Public Health Inspector. It was very fortunate that, following unsuccessful advertisements, we were able to promote Mr T.W. Howells Pupil Public Health Inspector to the inspectorial establishment, as he had just been successful in securing his Final qualifications as a Public Health Inspector. To some extent this indicates the advisability of maintaining an establishment of pupil inspectors, who have to undertake a course covering a period of not less than 4 years. Mr. C. Matheson was promoted to the post of Deputy Chief Public Health Inspector.

During the year the Civic Amenities Act, 1967 was placed on the statute book. This Act provides to some extent the "bite" that was missing from the Litter Act. I sincerely hope that, in the course of time we shall see some evidence of an improvement in the attitude of the general public towards the present day practice of dumping unwanted litter of all descriptions in hedgerows, grass verges and open public spaces. I read a few weeks ago a statement made by a leading planning officer that "litter has become as British as fish & chips". It is without doubt a sorry spectacle to see some of our beautiful country areas despoiled by a minority of people who are not prepared to go to some trouble by contacting their local authority who, in all cases, are willing and prepared to remove unwanted rubbish.

Generally speaking, I do not place too much emphasis on statistical information, but I think that some idea of the extent of the work of the Inspectors of this authority in regard to their duties under the Food Hygiene Regulations will be obtained from the statistical information given under this particular heading. It is an incontrovertible fact that

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poor hygienic conditions and practice in the handling of food supplies can give rise to wide-spread infections which may take many weeks or even months to control, and we consider this part of our duties as "prevention being better than the cure".

In conclusion I would express my appreciation of the continued support I have received from the Council, their Officers and all members of the Health Department Staff during the past year.

I am Mr Chairman, Ladies & Gentlemen,

Yours obediently,

G. LEEDER
Chief Public Health Inspector.

INSPECTIONS.

The following table shows the number of visits and inspections made by public health inspectors to the various classes of premises etc.

VISITS AND INSPECTIONS	NUM ER
Atmospheric Polution	13
Animal Boarding Establishments	6
Drainage	345
Factories	23
Outworkers	4
Offices & Shops Act	231
Improvement Grants	95
Conversion Grants	6
Slaughterhouses	103 *
Noise Nuisances	24
Offensive Trades	5
Petroleum Spirit	7
Tents, Vans and Sheds	177
Theatres & Clubs	17
Refuse	89
Rodent Control & Pests	63
Schools	2
Water Supply	27
Food visits	763
Infectious Disease	30
Housing Visits and Revisits	415
Rents Act	4
Scrap Metals	5
Miscellaneous	113
TOTAL	2567

* This figure does not include those visits necessarily carried out in connection with meat inspection duties which involves approximately one-third of the departments work

Complaints and Notices

No. of complaints received..... 251
 No. of nuisances detected as a
 result of investigation of
 complaints and routine duties 437
 No. of informal notices served 401
 No. of statutory notices served 1
 Nuisances abated as a result of formal and
 informal action 138

PUBLIC CLEANSING
1st April, 1967 - 31st March, 1968

(a) Refuse collection

The collection of household refuse is a local authority service which is considered as a "personal" service by every ratepayer in the District. It will never be possible to completely satisfy every ratepayer that this service is adequate to his demands but, having regard to the low number of complaints that were received during the year, the Council can be assured that the service they provide is appreciated and acceptable to the large majority of residents throughout the rural district. The steadily increasing growth of residential housing sites in the last 5 years has placed a heavy strain on the operation of the service and I must give credit to the Council's employees, who bear the main responsibility for the efficient success or otherwise of this service, for the manner in which they have dealt with this increased demand in the service.

(b) Refuse disposal

It is with a sense of satisfaction that I record the fact that during the year under review the Council have completed negotiations for the construction of a direct incineration plant for the handling of all refuse. The contract for the construction of the plant was sealed in March, 1968, and the work will be undertaken by Messrs. Simon Handling Engineers Ltd, Stockport, who have given a completion period of 16 months. The plant has been designed to deal with all domestic refuse from the areas of the Lichfield City Council and the Lichfield Rural District Council who will share the cost of operation on a user basis. Whilst there has been some criticism on the necessity to embark on such a large financial expenditure at a time of economic crisis I doubt whether even the critics would deny that the need for drastic alteration in the present method of refuse disposal can be other than beneficial from a public health point of view.

The total cost of the Public Cleansing Service for the twelve months ending 31st March, 1968 was £58,191 compared to £55,218 for the previous year.

The unit cost of collection and disposal was approximately:-

	£.	s.	d.
Net cost of collection per ton	2.18.		1
Net cost of disposal per ton		6.	7
Net cost of collection per 1000 population...	1065.15.		2
Net cost of disposal " " " ...	120.2.		3
Net cost of collection " " premises	2719.5.		3
Net cost of disposal " " " .	306.9.		4

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(c) "Keep Britain Tidy" Campaign

I have previously expressed views upon the ineffectiveness of the Litter Act in relation to the indiscriminate tipping of rubbish throughout the district. I would now hope, however, that the powers contained in the Civic Amenities Act, 1967, mentioned later in this report, will lead to an improvement in this direction.

A great deal of publicity is given in the local press to observations made at Parish Council meetings from time to time concerning the dumping of litter in hedgerows and on open land. It is a sad reflection on the attitude of the public that, notwithstanding such publicity, the menace of dumping litter seems to be increasing throughout the whole of the rural area. The Council are powerless to take action unless they receive factual evidence that someone is to blame for any rubbish found to be indiscriminately tipped.

CIVIC AMENITIES ACT 1967

(a) Disposal of refuse

This particular section, which came into operation in July, 1968, makes it a duty for a local authority to provide places where refuse, other than trade refuse, may be deposited free of charge by residents.

The difficulties of providing convenient sites over a wide area are very great and, taking into account the further difficulties that would be encountered by such residents in finding suitable transport, it was decided that the Council would itself, upon notification, arrange the collection and disposal of bulky items of a nature that could not be taken in the normal refuse collection vehicle. The system has worked exceedingly well and has been very extensively used. During the first five months 134 collections were made and, as a matter of interest, these collections included the disposal of 30 beds and mattresses, 14 three-piece suites and armchairs, 3 pianos, 7 prams, 3 invalid carriages and 3 cycles in addition to a general assortment of baths, sinks, old refrigerators, lawn mowers, television sets, water tanks, carpets, wood, rubble and concrete.

The provision of this type of service has been greatly appreciated by the ratepayer and, from a local authorities point of view, it must be regrettably assumed that a fair proportion of the above items would have been illicitly deposited upon open spaces in the District had such a service not been made available.

(b) Removal and Disposal of Abandoned Vehicles

This section of the legislation has been long awaited, owing to the growing tendencies in recent years of irresponsible individuals to abandon their old motor cars on highway verges, waste lands and garage forecourts etc. During the last 12 months a considerable amount

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of time has been taken up in trying, often without success, to trace the ownership and secure the removal of such vehicles and,regrettably and unjustifiably,there has been a further tendency for the local authority to be the subject of adverse publicity as a result of its earnest endeavours to remove vehicles without the backing of competent legislation. The Civic Amenities Act, 1967, in conjunction with The Removal and Disposal of Vehicles Regulations, 1968, now provides that power,although I must express my dissatisfaction at the extremely complicated formal procedure this involves. However, the legislation is now to hand and,in view of the heavy penalties that may be imposed upon offenders,I sincerely trust that we will now be able to effectively control or eliminate the unauthorised actions of certain individuals,whose activities have previously despoiled the countryside.

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949

The Council's Rodent Officers made a total of 1,404 visits in connection with the eradication of rodents during the year. These visits represent a 130% increase compared with the previous year and can be accounted for by the appointment of a full-time rodent officer in late 1966 to augment the duties of the Sanitary Foreman,whose duties formerly included rodent control work in a part-time capacity. There can be no doubt that this increase in establishment has greatly improved the efficiency of the disinfection service, and it is now possible to undertake more general detection survey work in addition to providing a more comprehensive or reliable contract service. Visits during the year were made up as follows:-

Contracts at Industrial or Business Premises	...	...	...	...	336
Sewage Disposal Works	...	...	...	...	147
Refuse Disposal Tips	...	...	...	...	96
Domestic Householders	...	...	...	...	825
					<hr/>
					1404
					<hr/>

In addition,63 visits were made by Public Health Inspectors to all classes of premises in an examination and advisory capacity.

Warfarin remains the principle poison used for rodent destruction, although considerable quantities of zinc phosphide are used in the treatment of refuse tips. No warfarin resistance has been observed,although it is noted that the incidence of resistance throughout the country has been rising,with a level of resistance detected in two adjoining counties. Note has been taken,however,of recent laboratory tests carried out with the anticoagulant coumatetralyl baits, and it is fortunate that we have now at our disposal an alternative poison that is effective even if rather less readily than in non-resistant rodents

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As a matter of general interest the resources of the Department have again been extended in the service of the ratepayer in connection with miscellaneous complaints not, of course, covered by the provisions of the Act. During the year 47 wasps nests have been destroyed, 53 premises disinfested of beetles, ants, etc, 16 dead dogs have been removed and disposed of, moles have been cleared at 11 premises and 31 drain tests were carried out.

OFFICES SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT, 1963

There were no applications for exemption in accordance with Section 46 relating to the provision of facilities.

It was found that there were 78 contraventions of the Act, and that these contraventions ranged over the whole of the relevant sections. Many of the contraventions dealt with structural repairs and redecoration of premises, and it was found that many premises were without abstracts of the Act displayed, thermometers, or sufficient first-aid requisites.

Nine accidents were reported during the year, and these were all investigated and the coded information submitted to the Ministry of Labour at the end of each quarter. Precautions were suggested to some employers to be taken to prevent recurrences. None of the reported accidents were responsible for serious injury. Human error appears to be the main cause of many accidents, and any steps which the employer could have taken in these instances would not have affected the circumstances.

Registration forms continued to be received from occupiers of premises who had decided to employ staff recently and from new occupiers of premises already registered.

Registrations & General Inspections

Class of Premises	Number of premises registered during the year	Number of registered premises at end of year	Number of registered premises receiving a general inspection during the year
Offices	7	23	13
Retail Shops	19	112	41
Wholesale shops, warehouses	1	9	3
Catering establishments open to the public, canteens	4	25	8
Fuel storage depots	NIL	1	NIL
TOTALS	31	170	65

TOTAL NUMBER OF VISITS OF ALL KINDS BY INSPECTORS TO
REGISTERED PREMISES UNDER THE ACT

231

Analysis of Contraventions

Section	Number of contraventions found		Section	Number of contraventions found	
4	Cleanliness	6	13	Sitting facilities	1
5	Overcrowding	-	14	Seats(Sedentary Works)	-
6	Temperature	16	15	Eating facilities	-
7	Ventilation	1	16	Floors, passage & stairs	4
8	Lighting	3	17	Fencing exposed parts machinery	2
9	Sanitary conveniences	9	18	Protection of young persons from dangerous machinery	-
10	Washing facilities	6	19	Training of young persons working at dangerous machinery	-
11	Supply of drinking water	-	23	Prohibition of heavy work	-
12	Clothing accommodation	-	24	First aid	8
				Other matters	22
				TOTAL	78

HOUSING

The public health inspectors made 415 visits and revisits in connection with housing complaint defects during the year. This is a considerable reduction on visits carried out in previous years although it still, of course, forms one of the Department's main functions. Housing work is very time-consuming with the number of visits totally out of proportion to the results achieved. This is due to the necessity to make frequent visits not only to the home of the complainant but also in order to contact the builder to whom the instructions have been given, in an endeavour to have repairs speedily and efficiently carried out. It is

Continued/....

regrettable that today there is a tendency for builders to reject or hold-back on repairs of a minor nature, which can be very much of a nuisance to house tenants.

(a) Housing Act 1957

A total of 20 houses were dealt with in the year by means of Official Undertakings under Section 16(4) of the Act. One Demolition Order was served on the occupant of a caravan which was in a derelict and dangerous condition.

(b) Repairs to Houses

44 notices were served in accordance with the provisions of the Housing and Public Health Acts in respect of housing defects. A total of 21 were complied with during the course of the year and a further 25, still outstanding following service of notice during the previous year, were completed.

(c) Rent Act, 1957. Certificates of Disrepair

Two applications for a Certificate of Disrepair was received during the year. In each case repairs were carried out and, accordingly, it was not necessary to serve Certificates.

IMPROVEMENT GRANTS

Ninety five visits were undertaken by the Deputy Chief Public Health Inspector and Deputy Engineer and Surveyor for the purpose of advising intending applicants for improvement grants. Of the forty seven formal applications submitted thirty nine were in respect of standard grants and eight for discretionary grants. All applications were approved with the exception of one discretionary grant application.

The number of applications approved shows an increase of twelve over the previous year and reference to past reports will reveal that the improvement grant scheme maintains a steady attraction irrespective of the basic and overall financial limits which tend to be restrictive in these times of ever-increasing costs. This state of affairs seems to be limited, however, in view of the enormous increases in aid promised in forthcoming legislation. If this Bill is finally approved, I can forecast a rapid increase in the number of future applications.

The following table gives details of improvement grant applications and amenities provided as a result in 1967:-

Continued/.....

STANDARD GRANTS

	Owner/Occupiers		Tenanted	
	Standard		Standard	
	5 point	3 point	5 point	3 point
1. Number of applications received	20	-	19	-
Number of applications approved	20	-	19	-
Number of applications refused	-	-	-	-
2. Number of dwellings improved	14	-	14	-
	£	s.	d.	
3. Amount paid in grants	4593.	0	0	
4. Average grant per house	131.	0	0	
5. Number of amenities provided (a)	fixed bath or shower	...	...	...
	(b) wash hand basin	...	...	...
	(c) hot water supply (to any fittings)	...	...	...
	(d) water closet	...	...	...
	(e) food store	...	...	...

DISCRETIONARY GRANTS

	Owner/Occupiers	Tenanted	
1. Number of applications received	8	3	
2. Number of applications approved	7	3	
3. Number of applications refused	-	-	
4. Number of dwellings improved	6	2	
	£.	s.	d.
5. Amount paid in grants	2405.	0	0
6. Average grant per house	267	0	0

CARAVAN SITES AND CONTROL OF DEVELOPMENT ACT, 1960

Two new caravan site licences were issued during the year, and there were nine renewals bringing the total number of licences in operation to thirty one. These sites provide spaces for 629 caravans and 12 chalets. Seven site licences which expired were not renewed.

Few complaints have been received from caravan dwellers, and investigation has resulted in ready cooperation from site operatives. Periodic inspections from time to time have shown that conditions generally have been very favourable, with licence conditions being observed.

The itinerant caravan dweller has again, unfortunately, presented a problem in the area although I am bound to say that they have not appeared in the same numbers as in previous years. Neighbouring authorities would appear to have taken the brunt of their unwelcome activities. Action is now pending at national level in an endeavour to improve the living conditions of these people, and it is possible that local authorities may be required to provide proper sites for them. Whilst this would no doubt be an advancement, I cannot, having regard to my own experience of these people, help but be a little sceptical about the outcome. Even if such tinkers and travellers could be persuaded to make use of such sites, I doubt whether they would, irrespective of their assurances to the contrary, accept the organisation and administration necessary to maintain the sites in a respectable and hygienic state of occupation.

THEATRES AND CINEMAS

Nine premises were inspected in accordance with the provisions of the Theatres Act, 1843, and as a result of this, eight licenses were issued for the "occasional" use of premises for the production of stage plays and one licence was granted for the continued use, in accordance with the Cinematographs Act, 1909-1925, of the one Cinema operating within the District.

Certain difficulties arose during the year in ensuring that the premises were made to comply fully with the Acts and Regulations, and at one village hall in particular, the right to refuse the grant of further licences for the staging of future plays has to be drawn to the attention of the applicants concerned, in view of their continued failure to adhere to licensing conditions applied to previous productions.

In respect of the administration of the above matters I would like to express my appreciation to the County Fire Authority for their continued advice and assistance.

SCRAP METAL DEALERS ACT, 1964

This Act requires the registration by the local authority of persons carrying on the business of scrap metal dealer within their area. During the year four additional Certificates of Registration were issued making a total of twenty two registrations since the Act came into operation.

Certain of the legislation dealing with the keeping of records is administered by the Police Authority. There were no contraventions of Section 1 in respect of operational use.

THE PETROLEUM (REGULATION) ACT, 1928 and 1936

There were 136 licences for the storage of petroleum spirit issued during the year.

As a result of an accident at a garage in late 1966, with a fire caused by the spillage of petroleum spirit, a survey of garage workshops was carried out to determine the types of space heating employed in such premises. Of the 33 premises inspected only 10 were provided with acceptable classes of heating facilities. The attention of proprietors was drawn to the dangers involved, but difficulties arose in the application of existing statutory legislation regarding the imposition of minimal distances of sources of naked lights and flames from places used for the storage or handling of petroleum spirit, particularly in such inclusion as a specified licensing condition. The lack of guidance in the 'Model Code of Principles of Construction and Licensing Conditions' as to the hazard area surrounding petroleum installations is a matter of grave concern and, although the model licensing conditions suggested by the 'Midlands Petroleum Acts Administration Group' suggests a minimum distance of 20', it must be borne in mind that at some storage premises this distance would need to be substantially increased. It was subsequently decided to secure the advice and assistance of the Staffordshire County Council's Fire Prevention Service, for whose willing guidance I would once again record my appreciation, and a complete survey of all petroleum storage installations was undertaken. The results of this survey are now to hand and, at the present time, a considerable amount of work is being carried out to ensure compliance with the requirements, and it is hoped that, as the merits of each storage installation is considered, it will be possible not only to ensure the provision of approved space heating of flame-proof construction at all premises where necessary but also to include specified distances regarding the distance of sources of naked flame as an implied licensing condition of each individual premise.

Only one report of dangerous leakage of petroleum spirit was received during the year and investigation revealed that this was resultant from the expansion of the petroleum mixture in the air chamber of a service pump situated on a garage forecourt and caused by overheating during a spell of particularly warm weather. It became apparent that the service pump in question was defective in design, resulting in inadequate cross ventilation to the pump housing. Representations to the pump manufacturers were made and speedy remedial works were carried out.

Circumstances of a much more significantly dangerous nature came to light following the intervention of the Fire Brigade at a tanker fire on the A38 in March, 1967. The vehicle in question caught fire, it is thought, as a result of underpressure tyre friction and only after successfully extinguishing the flames before they took a firm hold did it become apparent that the tanker was being operated in an exceedingly dangerous condition. The tanker, capacity 3,500 galls, was unmarked but, the suspicions of the firemen being aroused, I subsequently received a telephone message requesting an investigation. Samples were taken from the tanker which were later identified as petroleum spirit and in view of the fact that there were a further 10 contraventions of the Petroleum Spirit (Conveyance by Road) Regs, 1957, concerning constructional

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defects and safety precautions. I can only say that it was providential that the vehicle did not either explode whilst the fireman were tackling the blaze or previously in a highly-populated area during the earlier course of its journey. Had such a misfortune occurred, claims for compensation would have been doomed to failure, as the operating firm subsequently went into liquidation and, whilst this local authority instituted legal proceedings, these unfortunately had to be restricted entirely to certain charges against the driver concerned. This is not the first occasion that great potential hazard has resulted from accidents concerning large transport vehicles traversing the main roads passing through the rural district this year. Without going into detail, I must report a further incident when a cargo of radio-active material was scattered across the road surface, fortunately again without serious consequences, but, which aroused national publicity and concern resulting in a tightening of procedures to be adopted in the transportation of such materials. Obviously there must be something radically wrong with such procedures generally if one has to await a catastrophe or near catastrophe before stringent precautionary regulations are promulgated. I personally strongly deprecate the circumstances which allow the transportation of large quantities of highly inflammable liquids, as in the former case outlined above, particularly by firms whose financial structure is so precarious that they are unable to meet their liabilities, and I trust that the authorities will, in the light of recent events, considerably strengthen existing legislation.

Finally, I feel that it is worthy to report on the innovation of modern systems and modes of operation being gradually introduced by the larger petroleum companies to meet the changing pattern of retailing motor fuels, particularly as they affect filling stations within this District. The first of these concerns the introduction, subject to a stringent incorporated safety precaution specification, of the latched open pump nozzle, the use of which entails that the attendant does not have to exercise manual control of the nozzle during the period of filling. Filling stations in the district operated by one particular company will gradually be converted to this system. Secondly, it seems that we will shortly enter the "self service" era of petroleum sales. Two major companies have submitted proposals during the year for the reconstruction of existing stations to this type of operation. Basically the systems are similar in operation, although one uses equipment designed to enable customers to serve themselves from any one of a number of pumps, without the need of forecourt staff, but with a kiosk operator having complete control over the pumps and taking payment after completion of delivery. The other system is the unmanned type which dispenses petroleum spirit subsequent to the customer "posting" a £1 note into an electronically operated accepting mechanism. This type of sale is, of course, a significant departure from the traditional methods and as yet we have no real experience of the possible additional hazards that may, as a consequence, be introduced. If such filling installations are brought into use within the Rural District, they will rank amongst the very few that are operating in the country as a whole. Additional licencing conditions have, after lengthy deliberation, been evolved, and will be attached to existing conditions in so far as manned self-service stations are concerned. The

use of unmanned filling stations produces a further complexity of problems and it will only be after experience that the answers to the future use of this system will be provided. There can be no doubt however that the development of new equipment is attracting considerable capital investment and expenditure, and satisfactory regulations governing the use are necessary in the best interests of all parties concerned.

WATER SUPPLIES

Four complaints of unsatisfactory domestic water supply were received during the year. Three of these concerned alleged discolouration, but chemical and bacteriological tests proved to be satisfactory. The remaining complaint alleged metallic contamination of a domestic supply, and analysis, in fact, subsequently revealed an excessive amount of zinc to be present. The premises concerned were situated in somewhat isolated part of the district and, although provided with a mains supply, this tended to be inconstant, and investigation revealed that, in order to regularize the supply, a galvanized compensating tank had been installed.

Two further samples from the domestic mains supply proved to be satisfactory and a series of samples from premises served by boreholes, and taken by the Staffordshire County Council Health Department, gave similar results.

One unsatisfactory report was received after the submission of a water sample taken from a shallow well, following an application by the owner of the property concerned for an improvement grant. Action was subsequently taken to have the property provided with a mains supply.

As a matter of interest I would report that a series of samples was taken from a canal overflow basin following a request by the owner of an adjoining property to sell, as a commercial proposition, watercress that was growing naturally and abundantly in the basin. Growers should, under satisfactory conditions of production, yield less than 500 Esch. coli type 1 per 100 grams and, although most of the samples proved satisfactory, it was thought desirable, in view of the lack of information on the quality of the canal water, for a further series of bacteriological tests to be carried out. These are proceeding but, in view of the noted susceptibility of such products which are grown in conditions which cannot be carefully controlled, it is hoped to dissuade the person concerned.

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SUPERVISION OF FOOD SUPPLIES

a. Meat Inspection

The number of animals slaughtered during the year in the District at the eight licensed slaughterhouses was 73,489, which, by a remarkable coincidence, is practically equal to the number slaughtered in 1966 - being just 53 greater. These figures however represent a 6,000 increase over 1965. Whilst the number of bovine animals slaughtered has again decreased slightly, the largest reduction in numbers has affected calves, where it will be observed only 3,526 have been slaughtered, in comparison to 6,219 in 1966. This has been due to the termination of a contract for the slaughter of calves at one of the abattoirs, due to the restrictions placed upon its operation as a result of the implementation of the Meat Inspection (Amendment) Regulations, 1966. The total numbers however have been kept static by the larger slaughter of sheep and lambs, with a 4,000 increase over the previous year.

As in previous years, much of the inspection work is undertaken outside normal working hours and, although meetings and discussions were held with the local butchers' Trade Association, in order to regulate the hours of slaughter, the sum total of the reductions cannot be said to be very impressive. Whilst it is true to relate that the control over Sunday slaughtering is particularly noteworthy, it must be impressed that, irrespective of weekday evening controls, no significant reduction can be expected in any Rural District with a large number of private slaughterhouses, most of which slaughter on each day of the week. This is due to the impracticability of being in attendance at each abattoir at the cessation of slaughter, and the large distances to be travelled between visits. Each inspector must still work some 20 hours overtime on each three-weekly tour of duty, and it is due entirely to their diligence that this authority has been able to maintain a 100% inspection service for so many years.

Once again, no bovine animal was condemned as a result of generalised tuberculosis and, for the first year on record, only one case of *Cysticercus Bovis* was detected. This compares with four cases in 1966, seventeen in 1965 and twenty eight in 1964.

The total amount of meat and offal condemned as being unfit for human consumption was 34 tons 3 cwt 1 qtr 2 lbs. This shows a reduction of some 4 tons on the previous year. However, a very significant increase in the amount of bovine offal condemned occurred. This is due almost entirely to the loss of livers as a result of fascioli infections. There can be no doubt that the condemnation of bovine livers for such causes and subsequent cirrhotic disturbances is a severe economic loss to the butcher, and surely must be a matter of general concern.

The following statistics give details of the meat inspection service during the year:-

	CATTLE	CALVES	PIGS	SHEEP AND LAMBS	GOATS
Carcases inspected	6,299	3,526	12,450	51,170	24
<u>All Diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci</u>					
Whole Carcase condemned	24	5	5	74	-
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	1,238	17	558	6,163	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis and Cysticerci	20.04%	0.62%	4.52%	12.19%	0%
<u>Tuberculosis only</u>					
Whole Carcases condemned	-	-	-	-	-
Carcases of which some part of organ was condemned	-	-	31	-	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease	-	-	0.25%	-	-
<u>Cystercosis</u>					
Carcase of which some part or organ was condemned	1	-	-	-	-
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration	-	-	-	-	-
Generalised and totally condemned	-	-	-	-	-

DISEASED MEAT AND OFFALS

<u>All Diseases, except Tuberculosis</u>		<u>Tons</u>	<u>Cwt</u>	<u>Qrs.</u>	<u>Lbs.</u>
CATTLE:	Carcase meat	10	1	0	7
	Offal	6	9	1	15
CALVES:	Carcase meat	-	3	0	3
	Offal	-	-	-	21
PIGS:	Carcase meat	-	9	1	22
	Offal	-	14	2	24
SHEEP:	Carcase meat	2	19	2	26
	Offal	13	2	0	27
		33	19	3	5
<u>Tuberculosis only</u>					
PIGS:	Carcase meat	-	3	1	25
* Total weight of meat and offal condemned		34	3	1	2

* This figure represents a reduction of approximately 4 tons from last years figure.

(b) Other foods

Condemnation certificates have also been issued in respect of the following foodstuffs:-

	<u>Tons</u>	<u>Cwt.</u>	<u>Qrts.</u>	<u>lbs.</u>	<u>ozs.</u>
1161 tins fruit	-	11	1	25	15
345 tins vegetables	-	4	1	4	5
621 tins meat	1	5	3	24	11
25 packets cereal	-	-	-	25	0
33 tins fish	-	-	-	19	11
78 tins soup	-	-	2	12	12
10 tins sponge pudding	-	-	-	6	14
109 tins milk pudding	-	-	3	24	3
9 packets rice	-	-	-	5	0
2 packets energen rolls	-	-	-	1	0
22 jars sauces	-	-	-	13	2
6 tins macaroni and cheese	-	-	-	6	0
1 tin bisto	-	-	-	1	0
7 jars bovril	-	-	-	7	0
6 jars coffee	-	-	-	3	0
5 jars honey	-	-	-	4	8
1 jar marmalade	-	-	-	22	2
10 tins baby food	-	-	-	2	8
283 packets flour	-	7	0	3	0
Bacon	-	8	1	6	0
Butter	-	-	-	7	0
1 Chicken	-	-	-	3	0
	2	19	3	3	11

The total weight of other foodstuffs condemned in 1966 was 18 cwts
3 qts. 19 lbs. 1 oz.

(c) The Slaughterhouse (Hygiene) Regulations, 1958

The hygienic operation of the eight private slaughterhouses within the District continued during the year. As a result of daily visits to most premises for meat inspection duties the public health inspectors are able to exercise close control and supervision over such matters. Accordingly, no adverse criticism was expressed by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, Divisional Veterinary Officer following his quarterly inspections.

During the year one slaughterhouse operative has completed extensive works of reconstruction and modernization at his premises, including the installation of cold blowers in hanging room accommodation. This is now the second slaughterhouse in the area to be provided with such facilities, and it is regrettable that more operators do not employ this technique which greatly improves hygienic standards and the keeping qualities of the meat.

Possibly as a result of extremely heavy fines meted out to offenders in previous years, I am pleased to report that it was not necessary to institute legal proceedings against any person for using tobacco whilst engaged in the handling of meat at a slaughterhouse during the year.

(d) The Food Hygiene (General) Regulations, 1960

Towards the latter end of the year the comprehensive survey of all food premises was nearing completion, and a total of 763 visits and inspections were carried out.

There can be no doubt that, whilst extensive improvements in general environmental and operational standards have been achieved, these efforts to secure optimum conditions have been somewhat restricted by the shortcomings of the Food Hygiene (General) Regulations, 1960, being the principal legislation. Considerable difficulties are for example frequently experienced at food premises where it is obvious that business operations are seriously hindered by restricted accommodation, which provides only cramped preparation and handling areas, lack of suitable and sufficient storage accommodation for food, equipment and utensils and the very minimum of other facilities and amenities. Conditions such as these place stress and strain on food handlers, which are not conducive to good food hygiene practice, and it is regrettable that the Regulations are not more specific and demanding in their requirements in these matters, particularly when I must record that there is a general feeling amongst managements and other persons in control that their policy must inevitably be to provide the very minimum which is necessary to comply with the requirements of the Regulations.

The question of restricted accommodation is again very marked when the request is made to provide food handlers with separate sanitary accommodation from that which is, of necessity, provided for the use of customers. Surely in this day and age no one with the best interests of food hygiene at heart would seriously oppose this suggestion - and yet one finds continually that it is opposed or, alternatively, particularly in the light of the rapid rise in the growth of restaurants and steak bars at licensed premises, that the space is simply not available at premises

where popularity has outstripped the accommodation available. Unfortunately the Food Hygiene Regulations do not specifically require the provision of separate sanitary accommodation for staff. They only control the conditions in the accommodation which is provided, and I feel that this is a situation which needs review.

Further strengthening of the Regulation is also needed in connection with the cleansing and sterilization of multiple use of food equipment and food contact surfaces. This may easily be accomplished by the amendment of the Regulations together with the issue of approved lists of detergents and bactericidal agents which may be safely used in such techniques.

The prohibition of the use of common towels, in the light of their proven ability to act as a vector in the spread of gastro-intestinal infection, is again a matter of sound common sense, and yet it is true to say that, even with the use of educational methods, the number of food establishments that provide "single-use" paper towels or electrically-operated hot air hand dryers can be counted on the fingers.

The existing Food Hygiene Regulations will eventually require drastic improvement if better standards are to be enforced by law, and it should be foremost in the mind of every public health inspector that they provide at the present time only the basis upon which good food hygiene practice is constructed.

The Regulations in their present form have now been in force for seven years, and the time must now surely be upon us when it is obvious that they require substantial review if the public health inspector is to be given formal power to control food premises more efficiently, and to ensure better structural conditions and better standards of equipment.

Full details of the inspections are appended below:-

Total No. of premises inspected	...	...	...	141
Total no. of inspections and reinspections	...	...	...	763
Total No. of notices served	...	...	...	256

CONTRAVENTION	No. of Contra-ventions found	Contraventions complied with *
1. Sink provided for washing food and equipment		
(a) Inadequate quantity of hot water	31	25
(b) No sink provided	24	25
(c) Sink defective	9	9
(d) In room communicating with water closet	12	8

CONTRAVENTION	No. of Contra- ventions found	Contraventions complied with *
2. <u>Wash hand basins</u>		
(a) Inadequate quantity of hot water	21	18
(b) No wash-hand basin provided	45	40
(c) Defective	9	8
(d) No soap, towels, nailbrushes provided	51	39
3. <u>Foodrooms</u>		
(a) Structure in state of disre- pair etc.	97	54
(b) In need of redecoration	73	61
(c) Communicates directly with sanitary convenience	37	20
(d) Furnishings utensils and equipment dirty or defective	82	51
(e) Food exposed to risk of contamination	47	37
(f) Inadequate lighting and ventilation	24	24
(g) No proper storage for outdoor clothing etc.	23	19
(h) Accumulations of refuse and miscellaneous rubbish	33	36
(i) Inadequate facilities for preparation and storage of food	19	10
4. <u>Sanitary Accommodation</u>		
(a) Inadequate, defective, dirty or otherwise unsatisfactory	123	65
(b) No handwashing notices displayed	31	27
5. Evidence of smoking	9	7
6. Unhygienic practices discovered	24	17
7. Drainage defective	11	19
8. No first aid equipment provided	31	26
9. Inadequate or unsatisfactory refuse storage	19	11

CONTRAVENTION	NO. of Contra-ventions found	Contraventions complied with *
10. Premises so unsatisfactory as to warrant complete closure	3	1
* TOTAL NO. OF CONTRAVENTIONS:	888	-
* TOTAL NO. OF CONTRAVENTIONS COMPLIED WITH (TO DATE)	-	657

* These totals include contraventions complied with during the year in respect of notices served in 1966. The total number of contraventions detected since the new comprehensive survey commenced in 1966 is 1,459 since which time 270 premises have been inspected necessitating 1,299 visits and re-inspections and the service of 457 notices.

During the year legal proceedings were successfully instituted in respect of contraventions at three food premises as follows:-

Type of Food Premise	Contraventions	Convictions	Fines & Costs
Transport Cafe	40	35	£327. 0. 0.
Bakery	42	42	£337.15. 0.
Licensed Steak Bar	32	19	£ 80. 4. 0.
Totals	114	96	£744.19. 0.

The above tables include proceedings taken in respect of 10 contraventions (8 convictions - £67.9.0. fines and costs) against the managers and foreman at each of the premises for failing to take all reasonable steps to secure the compliance with the Regulations of food handlers under their control or management.

In addition legal proceedings were instituted separately against an employee at the bakery concerned for smoking whilst engaged in the handling of food, and a fine of £10 with £5. 5. 0. cost was imposed by the magistrates.

(e) Food & Drugs Act, 1955

There were 11 complaints of unsound food or foreign matter and mould in food investigated during the year as follows:-

Food	Nature of complaint	Action taken	Cost & Fines
Pork Pie	Mould	Legal proceedings	} £35. 2. 6
Pork Pie	Mould	"	
Bread	Foreign matter	"	£11. 6. 0
Milk	Dirty bottle	"	£20.10. 0
Danish butter	Mould	Warning issued to vendor	
Sterilized milk	Foreign matter	Warning issued to vendor	
Bacon	Maggots	Warning issued to vendor together with suggested improvements to storage facilities	
Bacon	Contamination	Complaint not substantiated on chemical examination.	
Fresh Brains	Maggots	Warning issued to vendor	
Minced Turkey	Foreign matter	Case referred to City of Birmingham in whose area product purchased	
Potato Crisps	Discolouration	Investigation revealed that discolouration due to a natural potato pigmentation anthocyanin	

One further complaint concerning a spider contained in a phial of tablets supplied on prescription by a chemist was investigated and, following a detailed investigation, a stern warning was issued in respect of the offence.

(f) The Food Hygiene (Markets, Stalls & Delivery Vehicles) Regulations, 1966

The above Regulations, which came into operation on the 1st January, 1967, lay down requirements as to food hygiene in respect of markets, stalls and

delivery vehicles. The principal requirements relate to the cleanliness of stalls and delivery vehicles used in the course of any food business and the equipment used therein; the hygienic handling of food, the cleanliness of persons engaged in the handling of food and action taken in the case of persons who are suffering from or carriers of certain infections liable to cause food poisoning, the provision of water supply and washing and other facilities and the proper disposal of waste materials. The regulations provide for the granting by local authorities of certificates of exemption from certain of the requirements and appended below are details of the eight applications received during the year:-

Class of business	No. of applications	Provisions from which exemption required		Decision	
		Sink	Wash hand basin	Granted	Refused
Butchery	6	6	-	2	4
Green grocery and general provisions	2	2	1	1	2

In addition to the above, twenty four butchers gave written notification that only meat, cooked meat and meat products that had been pre-cut, weighed and wrapped (in accordance with, Schedule 1) on their shop premises, prior to the vehicle being loaded, would be transported on their vehicles and were accordingly granted automatic exemption from the requirements to provide facilities. Similarly nine traders gave written notification of the restriction of their trading activities to fruit, vegetables and greengrocery and were similarly automatically exempted from the requirement to provide a sink or other suitable washing facility for food and equipment.

The following table gives full details of the inspections of mobile food shops carried out during the year, as a result of which action was taken in respect of 143 contraventions:-

CONTRAVENTION	CLASS OF BUSINESS					
	General Provisions	Green-grocery	Butchery	Bread & Confec.	Fish Chips & Wet Fish	Ice Cream
No wash hand basin provided	4	13	3	*	2	2
No sink for washing of food and equipment provided	2	-	7	-	1	3
No adequate supply of hot water provided	2	-	2	-	1	-
No adequate water supply	1	1	3	8	-	-
Name and address not displayed on vehicle	2	5	5		1	-
No first aid equipment provided	3	7	2	2	1	1
Unclean equipment and utensils	2	2	3	8	2	1
Unhygienic practices i.e. smoking, risk of contamination of food; unclean vehicles	2	6	4	16	1	2
No receptacles provided for waste, trimmings etc.	1	2	3	3	1	
TOTAL CONTRAVENTIONS	19	36	32	37	10	9
CONTRAVENTIONS COMPLIED WITH	15	27	29	26	10	8

*As a result of meetings with the trade all retail bread and confectionary delivery vehicles operating within the District are now fitted with hand-washing facilities.

Irrespective of the complicated nature of the legislation, and a certain amount of criticism which has evoked a degree of apathy amongst traders, the main difficulties in administering the Regulations has been the adoption of comparable standards between neighbouring local authorities. Generally speaking, however, such administration has worked reasonably well, and the basic intention of the Regulations, that mobile shops, etc, should be provided with similar facilities and be operated under the same equal acceptable hygienic standards that permanent trading establishments are, of necessity, required to comply, is, in my opinion, both a reasonable and commonsense principle.

